

An Essay
on
The Preparation and Practice of Medicine

Respectfully Submitted

To the Faculty of the

Homoeopathic Medical College

of Pennsylvania

on
The 30th day of January

One thousand eight hundred & fifty three

by
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Preparation, and Practice of Medicine.

When we take into consideration the term: Medicine, we are carried back in our own mind, into the fog of superstition and ignorance; then to behold the application of medicines in accordance with the various superstitions of that age and generation.

As far back as the Jewish antiquities, each Physician was a law unto himself, ever ready to work out a system of specifics, praiseworthy of himself. "Boget, assigned to substances those powers which had been learnt from accumulated experience; and he speaks of roasted Toad, as a specific for the pains of gout. Also asserts, that a person may secure himself for a whole year, from angina, by eating a roasted swallow.

Such must ever be the case when medicines derive their origin from false

experience; and their reputations from blind credulity.

Through the wisdom of Solomon, a plant was discovered to be efficacious in the cure of Epilepsy. but, not, being sufficiently efficacious in itself, it was administered under the influence of a spell, or charm, in order to assist its medicinal virtues.

And, as much was depending on the mode in which the remedy was given, a root of the plant was placed in a ring, and applied to the nose of the patient: Thus, we have the practical demonstration of the wise man Solomon.

The science of medicine was investigated by noble minds (no doubt) until about the year eighteen hundred, during which time, some two hundred different sects arose, each believing in, and worshipping a system of their own constructions

But, nearly all the improvements that were made, up to the year eighteen hundred, consisted in the classification of drugs, pathology, and diagnosis; but the philosophical applicability of remedies to disease, was a principle beyond the comprehension of the medical world at that period; consequently, experiments and death was the result of their investigations.

Thus far did the science of drugs progress, when a meteor burst forth from the clouds of ignorance and superstition, and enveloped the world in a light so brilliant for their vision, and so philosophical for their comprehension. Men, that once were winding their way through the dark valley of ignorance, have found their way to the hill of science, and there learned not to despise the day of small things. Science, is on the march, the fallacious principles of Allopathy are

crumbling away, and, the mighty surges of
Homoeopathy are sweeping them ~~away~~ into the
land of forgetfulness.

The true disciples of Hahnemann have strug-
gled long, and hard, to establish a science
in honor to him, and, for the well being of
humanity.

However sound that tree may be
A moth insid' your^d surely see.

That moth (erroneously called Homoeopathic
practitioners) has proved a greater barrier
to the advancement of Homoeopathy than
all the other schools combined. To such
as we would call your attention, you will
find to be such as, have left the other schools,
and claim to be Homoeopaths, through ne-
cessity; rather than a love of science.

Hundreds there are (particularly in the wes-
tern states) pretending to practice medicine
on scientific principles, and at the same,

time know nothing of the preparation or pathogenesis of remedies, or the law of Similars. And consequent thereof, their patients are led to believe that Homoeopathy is a humbug, and like the dog returns to their bosom.

It is a well known fact by all who practice medicine, as was taught by Hahnemann that the greater portions of practitioners, fail (in a greater or less degree) in the two great requisites, pertaining to a successful result. First; in preparing medicines so that implicate confidence can be placed in their action. And secondly: their applicability to disease, according to the Similia principle. But, the greatest barrier to the success of the true Homoeopathy, is, impure medicaments. And, as long as Physicians give countenance to such Pharmaceuticle empiricisms, just so long we shall have the evil to contend with.

A Homoeopathic pharmacy ought to be kept
by a person that has a greater regard for
science, and the welfare of humanity, than
their own pockets. We do not hesitate to say
that there is not a pharmacy in the state of
New York, that we would dare trust one of
their attenuated remedies in a critical case
of disease. Further, we know it to be an
indisputable fact, that medicines are pre-
pared (in a certain pharmacy of that state)
in close connection with a drug shop, and
from American plants, which are capped,
sealed, and sold, as pure European preparations.
And other pharmacy of a similar character
exists in one of the western cities, and stands
as the great medical regulator: And Physi-
cians, that are too indolent to prepare their
own remedies, repair to those Drug Depots
for the healing balm, and trust to their
heterogeneous mixtures for a cure.

Homoeopathic result.

Many, that call themselves pure undefiled Homoeopathic practitioners, have but a little better success, than an ingenious Alchemist, from the fact, that they trust to remedies prepared by some dishonest or ignorant Pharmaceutist. And, by so doing barter away the life of their patients, and, bring disgrace and disrepute upon the profession.

This shows mens vices and propensities,
Their dishonesty, and intemperities,

By marks indelible, and plain
As legible, as that on Cain.

If medicines be the great medium by which the vital forces are to be assisted, it is not only necessary, but indispensable that that medium be so arranged as to work in perfect harmony with the vital principle. And, it is the duty of every Homoeopathic practitioner to know for a certainty that

his remedies are prepared aright, and attenuated to a sufficient dynamization to meet the demands of nature. Also, the greatest care should be taken to procure remedies free from all foreign substances, so that, there may be no chance, of the pure action of the simple medicine, being disturbed.

As the result of a philosophical investigation, we have a rule by which we ought to be governed in the preparation and practice of medicine.

Hahnemann proved that medicines were better adapted to diseased action, and had a more salutary effect upon the human organism, prepared in the ratio of one to ninety nine, than five to ninety five or ten to ninety. But, for the want of confidence, or knowledge, at least three fourths of the Homoeopathic profession, use remedies prepared in the ratio of five to ninety five or,

ten to ninety, and, ^{many} not being satisfied with
the result of their mixtures, call in council
another tincture, hoping that she may reveal
some new phenomena, that may prove
beneficial to their patients. And, in order
to excuse their ignorance, declare that
this is an age of progression; and, we, as
progressive beings, should make investi-
gation for ourselves, and not trust to
other men's theories for our guide. (Great
care should be observed in these investiga-
tions, not to show greater ignorance than
wit, particularly in mixing antidotal
remedies, such as acetic acid with san-
guinaria, Sulphuric Ether with Phospho-
rus, and Mur. B. with Chloride of Sodium,
Etcetera,) and, for proof on this point, we
refer you to the Medical Bureau of the Hom-
oeopathic Society of the State of New York.
Such is the state of the greater portion

of the Homoeopathic profession in N.Y., Ohio,
Ind., Mich., Ill. and Wisconsin, and, in their
progressive state, they seem to loose sight
of the Law Similia Similibus, and, like
the Israelites, build to themselves calves,
and say to the people, these are Gods which
brought thee out of the land of Egypt.

A few there are, that prepare medicines ac-
cording to Hahnemann's rule. Dr Chas. of
Palmyra N.Y. is one that holds Hahn's rule
in strict observance, in the preparation,
as well as practice of medicines. And, as
an evidence of his success, we have only
to follow him to the sick bed, and there
we can behold the result of a scientific
attainment, as well as the power of attenu-
ated doses. We believe that good results, depend,
as much on the potency of the remedy,
as on the administration.

Many has been the time, that we have

seen remedies administered that was Homoeopathic to the disease. And, for the want of a proper knowledge of the governing principles that would demand a high potency, they were led (like the Allopath) to experiment on their patients, until they arrived to the required potency. But they are not alone in their ignorance. The major portion of the profession, and, in particular that portion which have denounced the pill and draught practice, seem to lose sight of the Law of Homoeopathy, and, in extreme cases of nervous excitement, break away to their pill bag, and bring forth a sedative or a narcotic, in lieu of a scientific prescription.

Why is this state of things? Is it for the want of a knowledge of Diagnosis?—Is it for the want of a true science? No. But it is for the want of a thorough knowledge of the Pathogenesis of remedies,

and their Homoeopathicity to disease. And, these are the reasons, that science catches the promys of the world. in lieu of the ignorant Physician. And for these reasons, it is, that scientific men have had to struggle for nearly half a century to overcome the enemy (Quackery) and to establish a science by which health and happiness can be restored to suffering humanity.

But, as we have given our views in part of medical preparations, we will turn our attention more particularly to the practical part of the science, and the qualifications of the physician, as auxiliaries to a successful practice. First: Temperance, Morality, Patience, Perseverance, and Firmness are indispensable to the success of the Physician. Secondly: It is highly necessary that a physician be well versed in the technicalities of human nature, in order to shield themselves from the various impositions to which

they are subject. But before treating of the administration of remedies, we will speak of some of the relations of mind to matter, and its relation to disease. The mind is known to be a principle inherent, developed in proportion to the different influences to which it is subject, independent in its mental actions, but dependant in its physical relations; Thus the mind is dependent on the physical man for its support, and vital principle, while the physical is subject to the mind in all its various manifestations. There is not a development in the human organism however great or small, but that it has a physiological relation between mind and matter.

It is a well known fact, that the genital organs, are so closely allied to the nervous system that the sight of the eye, not only affects the heart, but many times a kind regard for the opposite sex.

Many female diseases, can be modified to a remarkable degree, by the action of the Mind and, *visa versa*. How often is it the case that females, suffering from indispositions, baffle the skill of her physician, and hearing some pleasing news, or seeing some unexpected, but wished for friend, is immediately relieved. Also, while laboring under severe nervous excitement in child birth a few doses of some nonmedicated agent will relieve the sufferer as like a charm. But it is of little use for the physician to know that these facts exist, unless he understand the principle by which they are governed.

A thorough knowledge of the mental and physical developments, combined with the different temperaments is the only correct medium by which we can trace nervous maladies to their original developments. And, in possession of this medium the physician can decide at a

glance, whether his Dyspeptic patient has violated the physical law by over indulgence in a luxurious diet. or whether it is the result of a sedentary life. or, whether Myelitis is the result of Ananism, Mental excitement or, Mechanical injuries. Beside these are many other important mysteries in disease, which can be solved with the greatest satisfaction to the patient, as well as the Physician.

Temperaments, Age, and Sex. are three of the most important points by which to be governed in the administration of remedies,

It is claimed by some that Temperaments are a source of disease, but, with such, we beg leave to differ. We claim Temperament to be nothing more, or less, than a condition, developed, just in proportion to the various influences to which all living matter is subject. And, that condition a sign, by which we can judge of the comparative relations,

of the various organs, and their susceptibility to disease, as well as remedies.

If Temperaments are a source of disease, we cannot conceive how there ever was, or can be, a perfect state of health. Also, if one person have a comparatively larger intellect, than an other, or a proportionably larger hand or foot, we must assign the cause to a diseased action, developed by Temperaments.

But, on the other hand, if we take it, as it is, a condition or sign, we can judge correctly, as to the activity of the intellect, hand, or foot, and their susceptibility to disease and remedies.

But, to return to the administration of remedies, influenced by Temperaments.

And, by this, we are to decide the potency, duration, and many times the class of remedies. In patients of a Sanguine Temperament, the susceptibility is well marked

in all the potencies, and a prompt reaction being
in the Biliary; susceptibility is slow, but the
reaction is powerful and prolonged, conse-
quently low potencies administered at long
intervals, should be given. The Lymphatic
being the least susceptible of all the Temper-
aments, require low potencies, and their
frequent administration. The Nervous,
being more susceptible than all the other
and less willing to react, great care should
be taken, not to give low potencies, neither
frequent their administration. But,
as all patients have a mixed temperament
we are to be governed by the one most pro-
minent.

The age of the patient we consider of much
importance, in point of practice, and one
that is very apt to be overlooked by the
young practitioner, and many times
by the old

Again: much depends on the sex in the selection of the appropriate remedy, as well as the required potency. And, as females (like the child) are more susceptible to praise and censure, we may readily infer that they are more susceptible to the action of remedies; and, in consequence thereof, the higher potencies should be administered. But, as we have placed Temperament, age and sex, as the three great landmarks by which we are to be guided in practice. we by no means claim these as the only constituents to successful results in practice.

In the administration of remedies, there are many points which merit the consideration of the practitioner, besides which we have mentioned. and one of which is the law of assimilation. (What we mean to be understood by the law of assimilation, is where a remedy, through its frequent administration has become a

counterpart of the disease, and, consequently thereof
lost its curative power.) It often occurs in prac-
tice that a remedy is wisely selected, and, ad-
ministered, which seems to have a specific
action for a time, but, on its frequent
administration it is found to loose all of
its specific power over the disease. When,
if the physician had administered a few
powders of Sac Sac, or some other non med-
icated agent, and given the medicine
due time to prolong its action, ^{acute} would have
been established.

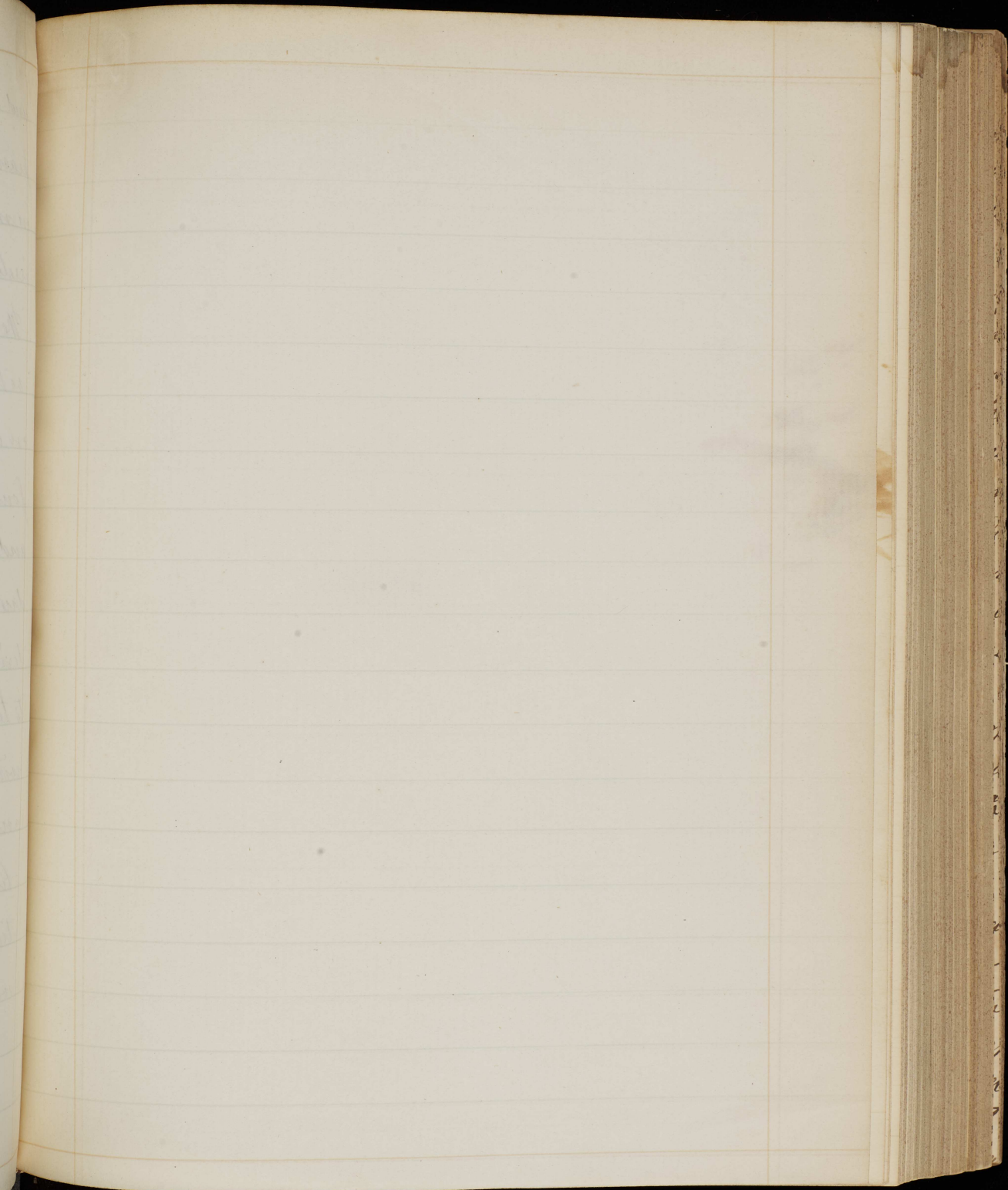
This principle seems to be lost sight of, by the
majority of practitioners, and particularly
in chronic diseases, where it ought to be
held in strict observance.

The too frequent administration and
alternation of remedies has arisen from the
want of confidence in the science, or a
proper education.

and the consequence thereof, is, an established practice of alternating remedies, which prove in many cases, deleterious, useless, and irrelevant in the extreme.

We claim to be Homoeopathic, and, believe the principles of Homoeopathy to be based on a scientific foundation, and that foundation the result of a scientific and philosophical investigation, and, as due the immortal Hahnemann and posterity, we believe it not only our duty to teach, but to practice in accordance with the principles which he revealed, and nature established.

And, believing these remarks to be of practical utility, we submit them to your worthy consideration.



1853

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the purchase of a copy of the "Principles of Chemistry" by J. R. Smith, Esq. of the University of the State of New York. I have the pleasure to inform you that the same has been ordered and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received. Very respectfully,
J. R. Smith, Esq.
University of the State of New York
Albany, N. Y.